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STATE GOVERNMENT SURVEY COMMITTEE

TASK FORCE REPORT

"MINES"



December 22, 1952

Francis J. Chesterman, Chairman,
State Government Survey Committee
455 Education Building,
P. O. Box 231,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir:

Meetings of the Task Force to survey the Department of Mines of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been held with the following personnel participating:

Mr. Maurice Coulter, Indiana, Pa.
Mr. Edward G. Fox, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mr. Carroll A. Garner, Hazleton, Pa.
Mr. R. T. Laing, Altoona, Pa.
Mr. Ralph H. Moore, Cresson, Pa.
Mr. John N. O'Neil, Harrisburg, Pa.
Mr. E. A. Simon, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Mr. Harry A. Sutter, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Mr. Edgar C. Weichel, Scranton, Pa.

SCOPE OF SURVEY

This report of the Task Force survey of the Department of Mines is submitted after a study of the subject to determine whether there are any duplications or overlapping of services which might be eliminated with resultant savings to the Commonwealth.

Your Task Force considered only administrative and legislative problems and not matters of policy of the Department of Mines. With this understanding in mind, your Task Force respectfully outlined the matters given consideration and study and makes its recommendations:

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. In view of the recommendations contained in paragraph B, dealing with expansion of the functions of the Department of Mines, it is found advisable that the name of the Department be changed.

**YOUR TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE, THAT
THE NAME OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF
MINES BE CHANGED TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT
OF MINES AND MINERALS.**

1. The first of the two main points of the report is that the Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to comply with its obligations under the Geneva Convention of 1948 concerning the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

2. The second of the two main points of the report is that the Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to take the necessary steps to ensure that the rights of the victims of the genocide are protected and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

1. The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to comply with its obligations under the Geneva Convention of 1948 concerning the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
2. The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to take the necessary steps to ensure that the rights of the victims of the genocide are protected and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.
3. The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to provide adequate compensation to the victims of the genocide.
4. The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to take the necessary steps to ensure that the rights of the victims of the genocide are protected and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.
5. The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to provide adequate compensation to the victims of the genocide.

Conclusion

The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to comply with its obligations under the Geneva Convention of 1948 concerning the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to take the necessary steps to ensure that the rights of the victims of the genocide are protected and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to provide adequate compensation to the victims of the genocide. The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to take the necessary steps to ensure that the rights of the victims of the genocide are protected and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Recommendations

The Commission recommends that the Government of the United Kingdom should take the necessary steps to ensure that the rights of the victims of the genocide are protected and that the perpetrators are brought to justice. The Commission recommends that the Government of the United Kingdom should provide adequate compensation to the victims of the genocide.

The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to comply with its obligations under the Geneva Convention of 1948 concerning the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Commission has found that the Government of the United Kingdom has failed to take the necessary steps to ensure that the rights of the victims of the genocide are protected and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

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B. Control and supervision over the extraction of minerals and other natural resources from the earth at present are divided among several departments, resulting in functional overlapping which might be eliminated. Limestone, and other quarrying, clay, iron ore, oil and gas are now under the jurisdiction of Departments other than the Department of Mines. Pennsylvania is the only State in which the Department of Mines does not have jurisdiction over all minerals removed from the earth.

YOUR TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE THAT ALL INDUSTRIES HAVING TO DO WITH THE EXTRACTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES FROM THE EARTH WITH THE COMMONWEALTH, INCLUDING COAL, LIMESTONE AND OTHER QUARRYING PRODUCTS, CLAY, IRON ORE AND ITS RELATED PRODUCTS, OIL AND GAS, BUT NOT INCLUDING OTHER MINERALS NOT HERE NAMED, BE PLACED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS. AS THIS RECOMMENDATION INCLUDES INDUSTRIES NOT NOW UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PRESENT DEPARTMENT OF MINES, IT CAN BE MADE EFFECTIVE ONLY THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH AND COOPERATION OF THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFFECTED INDUSTRIES. YOUR TASK FORCE, THEREFORE, FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT SUCH NECESSARY CONFERENCES BE PROMPTLY ARRANGED BY YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE.

C. Our study has revealed that mine sealing has not been effective and that generally it cannot be made effective. In some instances mines are sealed, but crevices on the surface allow water and air to enter those mines. Furthermore, the sealing of gas and oil wells has been equally ineffective for the reason that many such wells, having been abandoned long before the sealing program was initiated, were not located and sealed, and coal operators often encounter, in the course of their operations, abandoned gas wells. Because of the ineffectiveness of the mine-sealing program, the large amount of money expended therefore has not been justified and because we have found that it cannot be made effective, further expenditures therefore should be eliminated.

YOUR TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE, THAT THE MINE-SEALING PROGRAM BE DISCONTINUED AND THE APPROPRIATION THEREFORE ELIMINATED.

D. Under the Strip Mining Acts affecting both the Bituminous and Anthracite industries, it is now necessary to deal with two state departments, the Department of Mines and the Department of Forests and Waters. The Department of Mines is responsible for looking after the safety of the strip mine workers and also for seeing that proper bonds are filed as a guarantee that operators will backfill, level, plant and reforest. Upon receipt of the Completion Report, the Department

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sends its inspector to determine whether the land has been prepared for replanting. This report is also sent to the Department of Forests and Waters, which also sends an inspector to determine whether the ground has been properly prepared. After planting, the Department of Forests and Waters investigates to determine whether the planting has been done in accordance with the specifications. Certification is then made to the Department of Mines that the planting is completed as required by law and the Department of Mines then recommends to the State Treasurer that the bond of the strip mine operator be released. This is a clear case of overlapping of functions and duplication of expense which could be eliminated.

YOUR TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE THAT THE STRIP MINE ACTS BE AMENDED TO PLACE COMPLETE JURISDICTION OVER ALL STRIP MINE ACTIVITIES UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS, EXCEPT WHERE THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS DETERMINES THAT IT IS REASONABLE AND PRACTICABLE TO PLANT AND THAT THE PLANTING WILL SUCCEED, AND THE OPERATOR WAIVES ITS RIGHT TO PLANT, SUCH PLANTING SHALL BE PERFORMED AS HERETOFORE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS.

E. Duplication of inspection functions and resulting duplication of expense incurred by the Pennsylvania Department of Mines and the United States Bureau of Mines were given consideration. As one instance of this overlapping, the Federal Bureau of Mines handles electrical inspections, as does the State Department of Mines. Joint inspections and consolidation or coordination of reports by Federal and State inspectors would result in considerable savings of time and public moneys and would enable the mine operator to comply with safety recommendations of both State and Federal inspectors with a minimum of lost time, inconvenience and expense.

YOUR TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS, THEREFORE, THAT MINE INSPECTIONS AND EXAMINATIONS BY THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF MINES BE COORDINATED AND CONSOLIDATED AND THAT THE REPORTS OF THE SAME BE CONSOLIDATED FOLLOWING THE JOINTLY CONDUCTED EXAMINATIONS WHEN FEASIBLE.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Edward G. Fox

Edward G. Fox, Chairman
Task Force Pennsylvania Department of Mines

